

IN THE CLAIMS

Please, amend Claim 1, and add Claims 3 - 14, as reflected in the attached Clean Version and Version With Markings of the claims attached herewith.

REMARKS

In the Office Action of July 30,2001, the Examiner requested that Applicant elect a single enhanced combination of one plasma-soluble metal salt of ascorbic acid with one Vitamin C metabolite for examination on the merits. The Examiner indicated that combinations of various Vitamin C metabolites constitute independent and distinct inventions, as they have acquired separate status in the art of treating, thereby constituting separate subject matter for inventive effect and require separate searches.

The Applicant respectfully amends Claim 1 and adds Claims 3 - 14. The amendment is believed to overcome the Examiner's requirement for an election. However, according to M.P.E.P. 818.03(b), should the amended Claim 1, and added Claims 3 - 14, be unpersuasive to overcome the Examiner's requirement for an election, the Applicant has provisionally elected a single Vitamin C metabolite.